

Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the Office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Election/Restriction

1-6. The Examiner has placed a restriction requirement on this application, stating that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Invention I (claims 1-7), Invention II (claims 8-12), or Invention III (claims 13-20). Applicant has elected Invention III (claims 13-20) and has requested that Inventions I and II (claims 1-12) be cancelled without prejudice. Applicant makes this election without traverse. Applicant believes the election of claims 13-20 and the cancellation of claims 1-12 fully addresses the Examiner's restriction requirement of these paragraphs.

7. The Examiner provided a reminder that Applicant must amend inventorship if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor. Applicant has checked and verified that each of the listed inventors is an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Therefore, Applicant believes that the current inventorship remains accurate with the elected claims.

Conclusion

8. The Examiner has provided information concerning communication and/or inquiries concerning this case. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to communicate regarding this case and believes no response to this paragraph is necessary.

The applicant has elected Invention III (claims 13-20) and has requested that Inventions I and II (claims 1-12) be cancelled without prejudice. Applicant believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office action have been addressed. Applicant believes that claims 13-20 are patentable over all known prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of January, 2000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lloyd W. Sadler', is written over a horizontal line.

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